



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## **Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group**

**At:** St Madoc Centre, Llanmadoc, Gower

**On:** Monday, 11 December 2017

**Time:** 7.00 pm

**Chair:** Councillor Paul Lloyd

**Membership:**

Councillors: M C Child, J P Curtice, P R Hood-Williams, L James and A H Stevens

Co-opted Members: Roger Button, Rod Cooper, Stephen Crocker, Stephen Heard, Sue Hill, Gordon Howe, Michael Lewis, Hamish Osborn, Barbara Parry, David Tucker, Deborah Vine and Rebecca Wright

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### **Agenda**

**Page No.**

- |           |   |                |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Apologies for Absence.</b>   |                |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.</b><br><a href="http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests">www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests</a> |                |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Minutes.</b><br>To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting(s).  | <b>1 - 6</b>   |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Matters Arising from the Minutes.</b>  |                |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Future Landscapes Wales - Governance Principles Report.</b>  | <b>7</b>       |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Gower Landscape Partnership - Update Report.</b>   | <b>8 - 11</b>  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Swansea Public Service Board - Draft Local Well-Being Plan Consultation.</b>   | <b>12 - 13</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Light Pollution / Dark Skies.</b>  | <b>14</b>      |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Sustainable Development Fund Report.</b>   | <b>15</b>      |
| <b>10</b> | <b>National Association for AONB's - Feedback from Chairs meeting on 23 November 2017. (Verbal)</b>   |                |

**Next Meeting:** Monday, 26 March 2018 at 7.00 pm

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
**4 December 2017**

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**Contact: Democratic Services: - 636923**

## Directions to St Madoc CYC

St Madoc is about a half hour drive from Junction 47 of the M4. The suggested route below is the simplest, but not the most scenic.

- Take M4 Junction 47 - head toward Swansea
- At the next roundabout take the right exit signed the Gower A484.
- At the next roundabout continue straight – still the A484
- At the next roundabout turn first left onto the B4296 - you will pass a Harvester restaurant. Here the road goes under the low railway bridge. (11ft.)
- As soon as you go under the bridge, get into right lane and turn right at the traffic lights on to the (B4295).
- Keep going on this road for several miles. Pass through the village of Penclawdd.
- Eventually you will pass an Esso garage on your left in the village of Llanrhidian.

Drive past the School on your right and the Greyhound pub on the left. Just past the pub take the right turning. This road is a little narrow!

- After a few minutes you will arrive in the village of Llanmadoc. Pass The Britannia Inn on your right and drive up the hill passing the red telephone box on your left. You will see a prominent white Swiss style house in front of you.

Take the road that runs between this house and the ancient village Church building. Do not turn right and go down the hill to Cwm Ivy.

- Half a mile on and you will see an entrance to Whitford Bay Caravan Park on the right hand side. St Madoc CYC is just to the right of their entrance.





City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group**

Barham Centre, Mount Pisgah Chapel, Parkmill, Swansea

Monday, 25 September 2017 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor P Lloyd (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**  
M C Child

**Councillor(s)**  
P R Hood-Williams

**Member(s)**  
R Button  
R Cooper  
S Crocker

**Member(s)**  
S Heard  
S Hill  
H Osborn

**Member(s)**  
B Parry  
P Tucker  
D Vine

**Officer(s)**  
Chris Lindley  
Jeremy Parkhouse  
Mike Scott

Gower AONB Team Leader  
Democratic Services Officer  
Gower AONB Officer

**Also Present:**  
I Beynon, K Marsh

### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): J P Curtice, L James and A H Stevens

Member(s): G Howe and M Lewis

Officer(s): P Meller

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## **16 Welcome and Introductions.**

The Chair welcomed all present to Mount Pisgah Chapel and commenced proceedings.

## **17 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

## **18 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Gower AONB Partnership Annual Meeting held on 26 June 2017 be accepted as a correct record.

**19 Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**20 Sustainable Development Fund Report.**

The Gower AONB Officer provided a report on the Sustainable Development Fund. It was outlined that the aim of the fund was to support innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which involved local communities in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB's).

The SDF aimed, through partnership, to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in countryside of great natural beauty and diversity. The scheme sought to conserve and enhance the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community. Sustaining the social well-being and economic viability of communities were also important aims of the scheme.

Applications were for small grants of less than £3,000 or larger grants of up to £25,000. Applications over £3,000 were assessed by the SDF Grants Panel, a subgroup of the AONB Partnership Steering Group.

He added that Welsh Government had confirmed the SDF budget for 2017/18 as £55,000. There were currently 8 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, with a further 3 applications in progress.

The Committed Funds figure included the CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 30,310.00
Uncommitted Funds	£ 24,690.00
Applications anticipated	£ 16,400.00

The grants panel met quarterly to consider applications. The proposed dates for 2017/18 were 9 October 2017 (training session); 11 December 2017 and 12 March 2018.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

**21 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) - Selection of SDF Grants Panel and SDF Appeals Panel.**

**RESOLVED** that: -

1) The following be elected to the Sustainable Development Fund Panel: -

Councillor P Lloyd (Chair)  
Councillor M C Child  
Councillor L James  
Councillor A H Stevens  
D Cole  
K Marsh  
P Thornton  
D Vine

2) The following be elected to the Sustainable Development Fund Appeals Panel: -

Stephen Heard (Chair)  
Councillor J P Curtice  
S Hill  
S Crocker  
A Baharie

**22 Future Landscapes Wales - Governance Principles and Update from Implementation Group Report.**

The Gower AONB Team Leader presented the Future Landscapes Wales: Governance Principles and Update from Implementation Group Report.

He provided the background to the 'Future Landscapes: Delivering for Wales' report following the Marsden Review. It was added that following the Review, a Future Landscapes Working Group was established to examine the recommendations. The Group also allowed consideration of the recommendations in the context of new legislation; the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the evidence provided in the inaugural State of Natural Resources Report.

Reference was made to the Future Landscapes Review, a report by the Working Group which sets out a new Proposition for Designated Landscapes to go beyond their current purposes relating to conservation and amenity value. It stated that Designated Landscapes should be the drivers of the sustainable management of natural resources providing wider public and private benefit. It emphasised the opportunity, through partnership working, to realise the economic potential of communities and promote green growth and the resilience of ecosystems through these landscapes.

It was added that a new way of working through governance arrangements that include a wide range of delivery and partnership models with a common vision was proposed. It also recommended that bodies and partnerships with responsibility for

the Designated Landscapes should work across boundaries with Natural Resources Wales and local partnerships to promote their social, cultural and economic value and sustainable use. The report stated that partnerships would be required to attract new resourcing and influence investments by others. It stressed that this new way of working would require a behavioural and institutional change.

An 18 month action plan of first steps to realise the Proposition was contained in the report. It was divided into the following elements:

- collaboration and partnership;
- vision and direction;
- refreshing governance: improving performance and accountability;
- innovations in resourcing; and
- driving well-being and resilience.

The Future Landscapes Review proposed a model for developing future public policies and drafting devolved legislation. Welsh Government had released a consultation over the summer - 'Taking forward Wales' sustainable management of natural resources' seeking views on new regulatory approaches to the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales.

The report also outlined an agreed set of good governance principles. A summary of the governance principles was provided at Appendix 1.

The Steering Group were asked to review the principles of good governance set out in the report and were recommended to adopt them in their governance of the AONB.

The Group discussed the following: -

- Whilst there were many good ideas, there was a need for more detail / depth within the report;
- The requirement for the Steering Group to judge itself against the principles within the report;
- The expectations of Welsh Assembly Government / Natural Resources Wales who would expect the Steering Group to measure up in some way;
- Comparisons with other AONB's / National Parks such as Wye Valley and Brecon Beacons;
- The Steering Group monitoring progress against the Management Plan;
- Examine best practice elsewhere prior to making a decision;
- Developing and implementing a strategic vision for the area.

Councillor P R Hood-Williams stated that in respect of legitimacy, participation and voice, the Steering Group was properly constituted at the AGM, where everyone had the opportunity to speak and raise issues. The Steering Group should therefore concentrate discussions upon developing and implementing a strategic vision for the area.

It was proposed that a Working Group be formed to look at the issue further.

**Resolved** that: -

- 1) The contents of the report be noted;
- 2) A Working Group be established to look at the issue further and report back to the next scheduled meeting;
- 3) The Working Group to have the following membership – Steve Heard, Hamish Osborn, Steve Crocker and Keith Marsh.

## **23 National Association for AONB's - Conference feedback. (Verbal)**

The Chair reported on the National AONB's Conference that was held in Winchester. He stated that the theme throughout the Conference was doing things differently in light of the austerity cuts and Brexit, with organisations having to work in partnership.

The Conference proved to be an excellent event where the AONB family and partners shared their learning. He added that there were some inspirational work being undertaken.

The main speakers highlighted culture and how it builds prosperity, including building stronger communities and increasing well-being. In addition, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had widened the visitor profile and discussions centred upon making landscape more focussed, providing examples of how this had been achieved.

The Conference was a network of people who were passionate about AONB's and identified opportunities of how to promote organisational excellence, sharing experiences of how to tackle a number of issues.

Councillor M C Child referred to the City of Culture bid by the City and County of Swansea and stated that, should it be successful, the Council should ensure that the AONB and its residents benefit. He added that the AONB was in a unique position and that no other AONB / National Park had been involved in a City of Culture bid.

The Steering Group discussed the following: -

- Improving communications highlighting the AONB;
- Doing things differently by improving communications and promoting the AONB, e.g. websites, radio and social media;
- Improving the signage at the entrances to the AONB and on the M4 to inform locals and visitors;
- Improving the information that is available regarding the AONB, highlighting its purpose;
- Improving the communication of the Gower Landscape Partnership and raising its profile;
- The lack of financial support to enable improvements to be made;
- Proposed funding changes for AONB's.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.



**24 Membership of the Steering Group.**

It was proposed that Keith Marsh, Bishopston Community Council be co-opted onto the Steering Group.

**Resolved** that the proposal be discussed at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

**Chair**



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 11 December 2017**

### **Future Landscapes Wales (FLW) – Governance Principles – Working Group**

The last meeting of the Steering Group discussed the governance principles for designated landscapes and how they may apply to the Gower AONB Partnership. It was proposed that a Working Group be formed to look at the issue further.

It was resolved that: -

- 1) The contents of the report be noted;
- 2) A Working Group be established to look at the issue further and report back to the next scheduled meeting;
- 3) The Working Group to have the following membership – Steve Heard, Hamish Osborn, Steve Crocker and Keith Marsh.

Since that meeting, it has become apparent that the Wye Valley AONB are preparing to undertake the same exercise. The Working Group has agreed to work collaboratively on a joint exercise with Wye Valley. The Working Group will undertake this in the New Year and will report back to the next scheduled meeting in March 2018.

Chris Lindley  
Gower AONB Team Leader  
4 December 2017

# Agenda Item 6



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 11 December 2017**

### **Gower Landscape Partnership (GLP) Board update**

The GLP Board last met on 16 October 2017; the Finance report/update provided for that meeting is attached by way of an update.

The next GLP Board meeting (7 December) will include a workshop on legacy for the GLP programme; Steering Group members who are also GLP Board members and Gower AONB Team Leader will provide verbal feedback to the Steering Group meeting.

Chris Lindley  
Gower AONB Team Leader  
4 December 2017

## Helen Grey Report To Board – 16/10/17

### Finances

#### Overall Expenditure:

Type	Approved (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Committed (£)	Remaining (£)
Cash:	1,776,949	1,072,254	1,613,034	163,865
Volunteer match:	111,301	138,952	138,952	Target exceeded
In-kind:	75,480	61,437	61,437	14,043

#### Expenditure Per Programme

Type	Approved (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Committed (£)	Remaining (£)
<b>Programme A</b>				
Cash:	327,907	141,877	258,267	69,640
Volunteer match:	14,900	18,100	18,100	Exceeded
In-kind:	480	8,102	8,102	Exceeded
<b>Programme B</b>				
Cash:	282,906	120,975	250,851	33,015
Volunteer match:	59,600	75,500	75,500	Exceeded
In-kind:	0	27,158	27,158	Exceeded
<b>Programme C</b>				
Cash:	331,274	231,583	306,701	24,573
Volunteer match:	11,928	22,400	22,400	Exceeded
In-kind:	0	344	344	Exceeded
<b>Programme D</b>				
Cash:	255,104	97,788	277,860	19,022
Volunteer match:	24,873	17,500	17,500	7,373
In-kind:	63,000	10,583	10,583	52,417
<b>Programme E</b>				
Cash:	578,798	480,032	570,020	8,778
Volunteer match:	0	6,450	6,450	Exceeded
In-kind:	12,000	15,000	15,000	Exceeded

#### Match:

Type	Target (£)	Secured (£)	Variance (£)	Notes
<b>Cash</b>	461,749	466,603	+ 4,854	Reduction in cash match from reduced CCS staff time on Taste of Gower walks has been offset by an

				increase from the WG Access project.
<b>In-kind</b>	75,480	61,437	- 14,043	With the recently awarded YMCA contract it is anticipated that ~£18k of match will be generated.
<b>Volunteer time</b>	111,301	138,952	~ +27,649	Target exceeded.

### **Grants:**

Our 9<sup>th</sup> HLF claim (period July to September) is underway. The value of the claim stands at £90,909 as of 16<sup>th</sup> October.

Spend against projects under the NRW grant has been reviewed recently and we are on target to exceed the amount (£90k) needed to draw down the next £30k instalment. The claim is due in January.

A claim has been submitted to the Gower Society for the £13k grant towards the rebuild of Mewslade dry stone wall. The claim will be reviewed by their grants committee in November.

### **Outputs / Targets**

The backlog of feedback forms and data is now cleared, and the tracker spreadsheet is being updated on a weekly basis in order to avoid any future backlog especially now that activity and delivery has increased.

### **HLF Outputs and Targets**

With a quarterly progress update due in mid-October for a number of active contracts, the outputs and targets tracker will be fully updated by the end of the month.

### **Red status Outputs – currently less than 50% achieved.**

#### **Maritime Cliff and Slope:**

Just 2.5ha of 100ha has been evidenced as achieved. This is due to a change of need during the delivery period. This has been raised with HLF and a revision will be submitted for their approval, probably a change of habitat – lowland heathland / acid grassland.

#### **Hedgerows:**

Although currently less than 50% has been achieved, over autumn winter 2017/8 the target will be met with significant activity with NT at the Vile, as well as working with private landowners.

#### **Secondary Schools – beneficiaries:**

This is currently less than 50% achieved, but schools contract being delivered by the Nature Conservation Team is due to engage 100 pupils. Others are expected to be engaged through the contract with YMCA and the activities with Cynydd schools.

#### **Community and Youth Groups - worked with, and Youth Groups - beneficiaries:**

The recently awarded contract to YMCA will go some way to meeting the number of groups worked with. However, at this stage, it is anticipated that we will fall short of the

target we have for number of beneficiaries. A dialogue has been started with HLF about this.

**Oral History – beneficiaries:**

This project / contract is now underway and is expected to achieve the target number of beneficiaries.

**Exhibitions and Display:**

Although currently showing less than 50% achieved, once evidence has been gathered for past displays this target will be exceeded. Additionally, the GLP exhibition will be on display at all Cynydd school and other venues in the coming months.

**10 green lanes improved:**

The GLP working group / Board is to discuss whether any underspend is to be allocated to meeting this output or whether to discuss its relevance to the GLP programme. GGAT were asked to make further recommendations for work, however the response was not detailed. The Countryside Access team has now been engaged to help identify any opportunities for the GLP project; this is being taken forward under working group B/C.

**Training in Participation and Learning:**

Currently below 50% achieved, it is expected that the targets for the number of training courses and training days will be met / exceeded. However, the target for the number of beneficiaries may not be met.

**Geological heritage outputs:**

Since Working Group A have decided to curtail activities under GNH7&8 – Geological Heritage due to lack of identified works, we will now also not meet our outputs against these activities. HLF will be informed.

Where targets look like they may not be achieved, these will need to be flagged up and reviewed with HLF with a view to revising them. Due to the purpose of this report, what is not noted above is that we have exceeded targets against numerous outputs.

**NRW Outputs and Targets:**

Many of our targets have already been met or exceeded and are on plan to meet all others.

Review of further progress and spend against NRW items will be completed by the next board meeting.

**Extension till June 2018**

This has now been granted. Initial discussion has taken place with Wavehill, GLP's evaluators, about revising the monitoring and evaluation work schedule.

# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 11 December 2017

### **Consultation - Draft Well-being Plan 2018 – Swansea Public Service Board**

The following has been copied from the Swansea Council website:

“Swansea Public Services Board is a partnership of public service agencies who work together to improve local services. The four statutory members of the Board are Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, the Fire and Rescue Service and the Council. The Board also involves other organisations that have an interest in the wellbeing of the area for example the police and the universities. Support is provided by the City and County of Swansea. Every local council area in Wales is legally required to have a Public Services Board (PSB) whose purpose is to work collectively to improve local social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. This requirement is set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Each PSB is required to carry out an Assessment of Well-being to understand current levels of well-being and what matters most to local communities and to produce a Local Well-being Plan in order to improve well-being.

In 2016, Swansea's Public Services Board (PSB) started a conversation about well-being in the local area. Our Assessment of Local Well-being (published in March 2017) told us that Swansea is a great place to live but that we need to work harder together to make sure everyone can live well, benefit from and be proud of Swansea.

Swansea's draft Local Well-being Plan is now out for consultation. Using information from the Assessment and by listening to people, we have developed a draft Local Well-being Plan which is designed to improve well-being in the local area. But we need your views to make sure we've got it right for Swansea.

There are many ways you can discuss the plan with us or give us your views. You can complete the online survey between the 21 Nov 2017 and 13 Feb 2018, or attend one of the workshops, forums and events around Swansea hosted by the Partnership. Further details of these events will be posted on this page.

The PSB will use all the information gathered over the consultation to develop the final Local Well-being Plan. The final plan will be published by 4 May 2018.”

The draft plan can be downloaded by following this link:  
<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/psb>

Chris Lindley  
4 December 2017



# Agenda Item 8



## **Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader**

**Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 11 December 2017**

### **Light Pollution / Dark Skies on Gower**

Light pollution/dark skies has been raised at recent Steering Group meetings and this report provides a summary/update to the current situation.

Current available evidence is provided by pan-Wales studies based only satellite imagery and GIS data. The most recent of these studies was published for the Countryside Council for Wales in 2009, which was an update to a study undertaken in 1997.

The current AONB management plan includes Objective 17: Assess current levels of tranquillity, noise and light pollution, with an action to 'Develop and undertake baseline/monitoring approaches for tranquillity/dark sky.

In this context, Gower AONB Team Leader has had recent meetings and discussions with Welsh Government, Dark Skies Wales and Natural Resources Wales.

Particularly regarding dark skies - it is clear that empirical data is required as baseline data to inform any further work or development of Gower AONB as a dark sky area/designation. Swansea Council has asked Dark Sky Wales to undertake this required fieldwork and reporting. Gower AONB Team Leader will issue the report for discussion at the next AONB Partnership Steering Group.

Chris Lindley  
Gower AONB Team Leader  
4 December 2017



## Report of the Gower AONB Officer

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 11 December 2017

### **Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Report**

Welsh Government have confirmed the SDF budget for 2017/18 as £55,000.

There are currently 14 projects with SDF funding for 2017/18, with a further application in progress.

A further application is anticipated for 2017/18.

The Committed Funds figure includes the CCS Management Fee of £5,500 (10%).

Total Funds available	£ 55,000.00
Committed Funds	£ 41,810.00
Uncommitted Funds	£ 13,190.00
Applications under consideration	£ 1,000.00
Other Applications anticipated	£ 12,000.00

SDF budget for 2018/19 has been provisionally confirmed as £55,000, with most of the funds already committed.

Mike Scott,  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2017